

Message Text

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43

ORIGIN ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 USIE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14 NSC-10

CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

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E. O.: 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: UNSC MEETING -- U. S. MEDIA REPORT FOR MARCH 17,
18, 19

PASS TO BRIAN BELL, USUN DELEGATION

WEEKEND COVERAGE SC MEETING BY PRINCIPAL NEWSPAPERS ALMOST
NIL WITH NO SPOT COVERAGE IN TIMES, POST OR SUN SUNDAY.
STAR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY PRINTED MERWIN SIGALE DISPATCHES.
NY DAILY NEWS ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT. MARCH 17 WASHINGTON
POST PUBLISHED SIMONS ARTICLE PAGE 8. FIVE COLUMN HEADLINE:
" U. N. BODY WEIGHS CANAL ZONE STAND." DISCUSSING PANAMA- PERU
DRAFT RESOLUTION, SAID: " IT WAS CLEAR THAT THIS WAS IN NO
WAY ACCEPTABLE TO THE U. S. DELEGATION. AS SOON AS THE
COUNCIL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED, U. S. AMBASSADOR JOHN SCALI
TOLD REPORTERS: ' NEGOTIATIONS WITH PANAMA ARE IN TRAIN,
AND UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT WOULD BE HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE
FOR THE SC TO DICTATE THE TERMS OF A NEW SETTLEMENT.'
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" 'SUCH A MOVE,' SCALI SAID, WOULD SET AN 'UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT' FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. SCALI SAID HE WAS 'FULLY PREPARED TO USE THE VETO WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT,' BUT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY." ARTICLE CONCLUDED BY MENTIONING SUPPORT OTHER LA COUNTRIES FOR PANAMA.

SUNDAY TIMES PUBLISHED SEVERO NEWS OF WEEK RECAP SC MEETING. BALTIMORE SUN SATURDAY PUBLISHED REUTER PAGE 6 UNDER HEADLINE: " U. S. REJECTS 3 PROPOSALS ON PANAMA." SAID " THE U. S. AND CUBA CLASHED IN THE SC FOR THE SECOND DAY RUNNING, WITH HAVANA'S FOREIGN MINISTER QUOTING THE BIBLE AND MR. SCALI URGING HIM TO DROP THE 'OUTMODED, TIRE-SOME LANGUAGE OF THE COLD WAR.' CUBA'S RAUL ROA, REPLYING TO A RIPOSTETHURSDAY FROM AMBASSADOR SCALI, READ HIM A LESSON FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE, CONCERNING THE HYPOCRISY OF THE PHARISEES."

SUNDAY STAR WITH FIVE- COLUMN HEADLINE " PANAMA HINTED EASING CANAL STAND" OVER SIGALE'S REPORT THAT U. S. DELEGATION OPTIMISTIC WOULD NOT HAVE TO RESORT TO VETO. CONTINUED: " AMBASSADOR JOHN A. SCALI... BEGAN INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH OTHER MISSION CHIEFS THIS WEEKEND TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE ABOUT THE RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED FRIDAY BY PANAMA AND PERU. SCALI TALKED WITH SOME OF HIS COUNTERPARTS AT A PANAMANIAN RECEPTION FRIDAY NIGHT... SCALI WAS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE HIS LOBBYING AT CANTADORA." SIGALE OPINED SC HAS " BECOME A FORUM FOR LATIN GRIEVANCES AGAINST THE U. S., NOT ONLY ON THE CANAL BUT ALSO ON SUCH ISSUES AS FISHING RIGHTS, THE ROLE OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND ALLEGED ECONOMIC COERCION. BUT U. S. DIPLOMATS WERE PLEASED THAT THE RHETORIC, EXCEPT FOR ROA'S, WAS MODERATE, NOT VITRIOLIC."

NY DAILY NEWS SUNDAY EDITORIAL MAIN POINT: " THE REAL LOSER AT THIS CLAMBAKE WILL BE THE UN." ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS U. S.- PANAMA NEGOTIATIONS CAN BEGIN AGAIN AFTER THE " HOT AIR" HAS BLOWN AWAY. ACCOMPANYING EDITORIAL CARTOON TITLED: " MISUSE OF THE GLASS HOUSE" AND SHOWS PANAMA SHOUTING " ANTI- U. S. PROPAGANDA" THROUGH A MEGAPHONE WHICH IS THRUST THROUGH (GLASS) UN BUILDING.
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STAR- NEWS SUNDAY ALSO PUBLISHED NIXON- MURPHY LETTER WITH STORY SAYING " NIXON HAS TOLD A GROUP OF 60 CONGRESSMEN THAT HE SHARES THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF GUARANTEE-ING THE FUTURE SECURITY OF INSTALLATIONS IN THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE." LETTER SENT TO REP. MURPHY BY RICHARD COOK, DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT.

NO MAJOR NEWSPAPER CARRIED COVERAGE SC MEETING MONDAY MARCH 19.

RADIO/ TELEVISION LIKEWISE GAVE ONLY SPOTTY ATTENTION TO MEETING. ROGERS

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